

and placed nearer the centre; the posterior end is broadly rounded in the variety, while in the typical form it is much produced and somewhat ram-shaped; the color varies from light yellowish horn to rather dark horn, with an occasional zone of yellowish; the surface is smooth and polished, the growth lines being faint on the umbones, but stronger on the ventral border.

Length 14.00, height 11.00, breadth 8.50 mill.

Length 12.50, height 9.75, breadth 7.50 mill.

*Habitat*.—Lilycash Creek, near Joliet (coll. by J. H. Handwerk).

This variety was referred to Dr. V. Sterki by Mr. Handwerk, and considered by him to be an unusual form of *striatinum*, but he did not consider it distinct from the typical form. After examining a large number of specimens the writer has concluded that it is a form distinct enough for a specific name. Its beautiful polished surface and inflated shell will at once distinguish it from *striatinum*. It is shaped differently from *stamineum* and the beak sculpture is very much finer.

Another form is found associated with the variety which is in a sense intermediate between the typical form and the variety, having a more oval shell than the type, but not being so much inflated as the variety; it is very dark chestnut or dark brown in color. Several specimens of this form had the hinge wholly or partly inverse.

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#### DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF OLIVELLA.

BY JOHN FORD.

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*Olivella Blanesi* n. sp.

Shell ovate, white, somewhat translucent, ornamented with three spiral series of irregularly formed crimson spots, one (of very small spots) at the suture, the others central and basal; the rest of the surface showing a faint reticulation of the same color in some specimens. Whorls 5, spire produced, rather acute; suture channelled. Aperture half the length of the shell, acuminate above, widest below the middle; basal notch wide, columella very short, vertical, cylindrical and smooth, making a decided angle with the parietal wall, forming a deep sinus; basal fasciole smooth.

Length 8.9, diam. 3.8, length of aperture 4.75 mm.

Length 7.5, diam. 3.2, length of aperture 4 mm.

*Locality*.—Cardenas, Cuba.

The species has apparently heretofore been mistaken for *O. rosalina*, although the one is quite distinct from the other, especially so in general form, number of spiral whorls, and the non appearance in *O. Blanesi* of the rose colored base of the columella, which is seldom if ever absent in *O. rosalina*.

A fine suite of these shells has been in my collection for several years, unnamed. Though convinced that they were an undescribed species they remained neglected until I recently found in the fine collection of Mr. Francisco E. Blanes, late of Cuba, a large number of the same form mistakenly labelled *O. rosalina* Duclou. All, or nearly all of this entire lot had been collected by himself near Cardenas, Cuba. A brief explanation and comparison with genuine *O. rosalina* was sufficient to satisfy him of their distinct character, and the result is the new name, *Olivella Blanesi*.

Specimens entirely white, secured at the same locality might well be termed var. *alba*. Some suspicion that these colorless shells might be identical with *O. pura* or *O. bullula* as figured by Reeve being felt, specimens were submitted by a friend to Mr. E. R. Sykes of London for comparison with Reeve's types. To his kind assistance the following report is due: "I have compared your *Olivella* (with Mr. Smith's ever ready helping hand). It does not seem to be either *pura* or *bullula*. *Pura* may not be the actual type, as it is recorded by Reeve as in 'Mus. Metcalfe.' It is much more drawn out than your shell. The one specimen is in pretty good condition and seems never to have had much color marking, certainly not like yours. *O. bullula* here is snow white, but is thin and worn, so may have had some color. It is slightly more elongate and does not show the sinus that your species has in the columella. Very probably yours is new."

A figure will be given later.

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AN INTERROGATION IN REGARD TO SEPTIFER BIFURCATUS RVE.,  
AND MYTILUS BIFURCATUS CONR.

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BY MRS. M. BURTON WILLIAMSON.

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Shells that vary from the type sometimes raise a question in regard to the stability of their specific or generic values. Typical shells of *Septifer bifurcatus* Rve. and *Mytilus bifurcatus* Conr. are